

3 March 1979

TRANSLATION

Letters from Letters Received from Siberia During Period December 1926 to
December 1928

Address: Krasnaya Khol
Krasny Raion
Gt. Arden

Krasnaya Khol
Gt. Krasny (Krasny)
Ul. Lashova
N. 3 R. 2

Arden is a small village in the Taiga and rocky hills (Krasny Hills - etc).

The winter lasts more than six months and the temperatures go down to 59°. The people are engaged in the breaking up of the hills, in the building of roads and bridges. In spite of the height, the population suffers from heart ailments and rheumatism. Even new born babies suffer these same ailments. The people live in barracks and the families are quartered in different sections of the barracks because the rooms are very small. The nearest railroad station to Arden is 270 Kilometers. Earnings are very small. A month's pay for the removal of stones is about 300 rubles. A comparison is made in the letter with earnings in Omsk by women for working on potato crops at 300 rubles for 16 days. The working hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and the place of work is located 35 kilometers away, so that one travels 70 kilometers to and from work each day. Women work right along with the men in the removal of stones, digging for bridge foundations and cutting down of forests.

Products such as the following are brought (transported) to the stores: flour, groats, sugar, bread. From time to time the settlers from more distant areas bring in tins of food to exchange for wild berries. The people are permitted to raise hogs and chickens for their own use. There are no cows because there is no feed for them but it is possible to buy milk from time to time. The settlers also try to cultivate gardens and plant potatoes which don't always ripen because they are damaged by frost. For example, in 1957 potatoes were planted in early July or late June but in mid July there was a heavy frost and before the potatoes had a chance to start growing all over again there was another frost on August 16, so that by September 18 the potatoes had to be all dug up because of the freezing temperatures and snow. (Out of 22 buckets of potatoes planted, the yield was 120 buckets.) The month of August was mostly fair and warm. During this month the older settlers who do not work, pick berries in the Taiga which they either sell or use in trading for other products. One woman sold 300 rubles worth of berries in addition to the ones she gathered and preserved for her family's use during the winter months. The berries are: blue (Lapland) agria, the size of peas, suitable for cooking; mountain cranberries, red and small as pepper, can be stored all winter, is used as jam and does not require sugar.

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and one copy to SR/6

The prices paid in Minisinsk for some imported articles:

Wrist watch, Swiss, make: "Oris"	- approximately 400 rubles
Sweater	- approximately 200-300 rubles
Silk lined scarfs	- approximately 200-300 rubles
Woolen yard materials	- highest prices

Don't mail any shoe leather because there are no cobblers here. The shoe makers are located way out in the raion.

Original Submitted by AEGASOMARY-2
19 February 1959